



Security Council

Distr.: General
25 October 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 19 October 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2295 (2016), I have the honour to transmit a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of France, dated 12 October 2018, conveying a report to the Security Council on the implementation of the mandate of the French forces in Mali (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres



Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, and has the honour to convey the information below.

Pursuant to paragraphs 41, 53 and 70 of Security Council resolution 2423 (2018), France is enclosing herewith the report on actions undertaken by French forces in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali between 1 June and 1 September 2018 (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General could bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Report No. 21 concerning French forces' operational support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali between 1 June 2018 and 1 September 2018

References:

- Resolution 2423 (2018) of 28 June 2018 (paras. 41, 53 and 70);
- Technical cooperation and assistance arrangement between the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the French Ministry of Armed Forces of 26 March 2015.

This twenty-first report since the creation of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) summarizes the support that the French forces provided the Mission between 1 June 2018 and 1 September 2018.

Since 1 June, no operations involving firing of weapons "to intervene in support of elements of MINUSMA when under imminent and serious threat" have taken place.

The coordination, exchange of information and support between the various security presences referred to in paragraph 41 of resolution 2423 (2018) have been pursued, within the respective mandates of those presences and through existing mechanisms. The country coordination mechanism in Mali (in which MINUSMA, the Malian armed forces, the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, the European Union military training mission in Mali helping to train the Malian armed forces and the Barkhane force are represented) held a meeting on 28 June. At that meeting, the mechanism took stock of the progress of proposals for coordination. Productive discussions were held via bi-monthly videoconferences with the partner forces in Mali to find ways to address the various needs that had arisen.

The Barkhane force provided MINUSMA with the following operational support during the period covered by this report:

Operations

The Barkhane force responded to a request from MINUSMA for air support for the first escort mission for the Egyptian contingent deployed on the Gao-Tessalit-Gao convoy from 16 to 29 July. Five show-of-presence missions were conducted on 21, 25 and 28 July for this unit.

In August, in the setting of the MINUSMA operation in the Gao-Ansongo-Menaka triangle, Barkhane units assisted a German unit of the Mission operating in the same sector. The results of that cooperation included extracting from mud some German unit vehicles on 30 August in Iménas.

The operational cooperation effort was also pursued through seeking better coordination for protecting neighbouring bases, such as those in Timbuktu and Kidal. The Barkhane force and MINUSMA pooled their detection and alert capacity, particularly that relating to indirect fire.

During the disengagement from the theatre of MINUSMA's Belgian helicopters in summer 2018, a team of mechanics from the Barkhane tactical air-combat battlegroup was put on alert on 7 July 2018 to support the Belgian Blue Helmets.

The Barkhane force contributed to the collective effort to create a secure environment for the presidential election in Mali, in support of the Malian defence

and security forces and MINUSMA. In this context, interaction mainly took the form of regular coordination meetings.

Interaction has remained regular and productive, thanks in particular to the efforts of the Barkhane force liaison officer working with the Malian armed forces joint military operations centre, MINUSMA and the European Union military training mission in Mali; this officer acts as an interface and facilitates intelligence sharing.

Military operational partnership

Since June, interaction relating to military operational partnership has been stepped up, as follows:

- Sharing the general concept of operations as part of efforts to create a secure environment for the presidential election in Mali
- Interaction in the coordination of operations and situation sharing

Intelligence

Interaction relating to intelligence has focused on the issue of protecting bases. There are plans for a joint working group on geospatial intelligence (geographic data). Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support is confined to protecting bases.

Engineering

Aeronautical engineering

- At the Menaka camp, work undertaken by the Barkhane force included building a MINUSMA checkpoint, maintenance of trenches, laterite mining for the Mission and maintenance of the airstrip
- At the Timbuktu camp, surveying of the airstrip (service index report)
- Against payment, and as set out in the letter of assist, keeping the unpaved airstrip in Gao in operational condition, and the provision of training for Cambodian engineers at the Tessalit camp

Countering improvised explosive devices

- Logistics assistance to MINUSMA following the improvised explosive device attack in Kidal on 20 July, to remove an armoured vehicle damaged by a mine
- Rapid-reaction explosive ordnance disposal services for MINUSMA in Tessalit on 19 and 20 July
- Exchanges of event and resource-related information regarding improvised explosive devices found, and submission of conclusions and other reports of the Barkhane force's counter-improvised-explosive-device laboratory

Logistics

The Barkhane force offered MINUSMA access to its regular logistics convoy services. As a result, in July, four MINUSMA tankers with 20 m³ of fuel joined the Barkhane Gao-Tessalit convoy, and three empty tankers returned with the Kidal-Gao convoy.

A link is maintained between the Barkhane force J4 MVT of the theatre joint military command post, the MINUSMA U4/PLAN (Bamako) and the G4 head of the East sector (Gao). This will make possible regular exchanges of information on reciprocal convoy planning. This collaboration will be extended to the Malian armed forces.

Health

MINUSMA contingents have access to Barkhane force role 1 and 2 services in Mali. As in the previous period, the contingents had access to routine and emergency consultations, paramedical care, dental care and surgical procedures. Such access was provided in Gao, Tessalit and Menaka.

The totals for the three-month period were: 12 medical role 2 consultations; 38 role 1 consultations; four surgical procedures, 31 dental consultations and 24 radiological exams.
